

# The Vibrant Tapestry of Kolhapur Saraf Sangh: A Deep Dive into Kolhapur's Jewellery Heritage

**Mr Rajesh Rathod, President, Kolhapur Saraf Vyapari Association**

Nestled in the picturesque landscape of Western Maharashtra, Kolhapur stands as a beacon of tradition and commerce, drawing thousands of pilgrims each year to seek the blessings of Shri Karveer Nivasini Ambabai Mata. Amidst the spiritual fervor that engulfs the city, another facet of its identity gleams brightly – its illustrious jewelry trade. Renowned as the second-largest jewellery production center in Maharashtra after Mumbai, Kolhapur's gold and silver creations captivate not only domestic markets but also attract a discerning clientele from across the globe.

The genesis of Kolhapur's jewellery legacy traces back to a time when traders recognized the need for unity in the face of burgeoning business opportunities. Even before India's independence, these enterprising individuals organized themselves, laying the foundation for the Kolhapur Saraf Traders Association on January 26, 1955. What began as a collective endeavor has now burgeoned into a formidable institution boasting 800 members, each contributing to the vibrancy of Kolhapur's jewellery landscape.



**Mr Rajesh Rathod**



Situated amidst the bustling streets of Mahadwar Road lies the epicenter of this thriving association – a four-story edifice spanning 3500 square feet, serving as a testament to the collective aspirations of its members. Here, councilors convene, each representing their respective establishments, weaving together the fabric of Kolhapur's jewellery community. Bolstered by the presence of over 2500 bullion businesses and an extensive network of artisans, Kolhapur's jewellery ecosystem pulsates with vitality, providing livelihoods to nearly 25 thousand skilled individuals, a significant portion of whom specialize in the intricate craft of silverwork.

Kolhapur's allure extends beyond its commercial prowess, encapsulating a rich tapestry of traditional craftsmanship. From the ornate adornments adorning temple deities to the exquisite Kolhapuri Saaj, Vajratik, and Putli Haar that grace its markets, the city resonates with the timeless elegance of its jewelry heritage. Silver, in particular, holds a special place in Kolhapur's repertoire, with artisans deftly crafting intricate pieces such as the silver karand, Lotus plate, and Attardani, alongside divine offerings like Devdas diyas and Damru diyas, adding a celestial touch to the city's artisanal landscape.



At the helm of this illustrious association stands Rajesh Rathod, a visionary leader committed to steering Kolhapur's jewellery industry towards a future marked by innovation and sustainability. Under his stewardship, the association actively engages its members, providing them with opportunities to showcase their craft at prestigious exhibitions and equipping them with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate the ever-evolving market landscape. Through initiatives such as fairs, discussion sessions, and workshops, Rathod ensures that Kolhapur's artisans are empowered with the expertise needed to thrive in a rapidly changing industry.

As the sun sets on the bustling streets of Kolhapur, the legacy of its Saraf Sangh continues to shine bright, a testament to the indomitable spirit of its members and the enduring allure of its jewellery tradition. With each meticulously crafted piece, Kolhapur pays homage to its rich heritage while embracing the promise of a future illuminated by innovation and collaboration.